

**Submission by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' Compilation Report –
Universal Periodic Review:
SWEDEN**

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Sweden is party to all major human rights treaties and has, in general, an excellent human rights record, including for refugees and asylum-seekers. Sweden ratified the *1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees* in 1954, and acceded to its *1967 Protocol* in 1967 (hereinafter referred to jointly as the *1951 Refugee Convention*). Furthermore, Sweden ratified the *1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless persons* in 1965 and acceded to the *1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness* (the *1954 Convention* and the *1961 Convention* respectively) in 1969.

Sweden hosts the largest refugee population in the Northern Europe region and is one of the top five asylum applicant-receiving countries among the industrialized nations. From 2009 to 2013, the number of asylum seekers per year in Sweden has increased from 37,897 to 54,259. In 2013, 3,852 unaccompanied or separated children applied for asylum in Sweden, which was the highest number in the EU. In 2014, it is projected that up to 80,000 persons will apply for asylum in Sweden. Until 30 June, a total of 31,950 persons had applied for asylum in Sweden. The largest groups of asylum-seekers are: Syrians (6,611), persons recorded as stateless (1,432), and Eritreans (1,384). Sweden is the largest recipient of asylum-seekers from Syria within the EU, and urges other EU countries to take more responsibility. Additionally, Sweden hosts 13,020 stateless persons.

Following the relatively large increase in the number of asylum applicants in the past years, the Swedish authorities have faced a challenge with trying to find enough reception facilities for asylum-seekers as well as municipality placements for persons granted international protection and a residence permit.

Overall, the Swedish society is open and tolerant towards accepting refugees and migrants, and the right of asylum is respected. However, research has acknowledged that there is evidence of racism, xenophobia and discrimination against ethnic minorities in various spheres of society in Sweden, including on the labour market. It has also been acknowledged that discrimination, as a result, constitutes an obstacle to 'social integration', if measured as the interaction between native-born Swedes and immigrant groups. Ensuring that there are effective measures in place against discrimination is one of the officially stated policy priorities of the Swedish Government in relation to integration of immigrants and refugees.

In September 2014, Sweden will hold parliamentary elections. It is expected that migration and integration will be one of the main focus areas in the elections. In the political landscape, there are political parties which are advocating for a restriction of asylum and immigration policies, and discriminatory statements in political discourse is not uncommon.

Sweden is the third largest bilateral humanitarian aid donor, providing about USD 762 million (SEK 5 billion), of which USD 515 million (SEK 3.4 billion) to the UN System. Sweden's development aid budget for 2014 is SEK 38.1 billion (USD 5.8 billion), 1 % of GNI. Costs for receiving asylum-seekers in Sweden are included in the budget. Swedish development assistance focuses on poverty reduction and gender equality with the following priorities in 2014: MDGs with focus on maternal health and reduced child mortality; Africa and food security; environment- and climate sustainable development; enhanced support for defenders of freedom, democracy and human rights; focus on the private sector and innovative financing; expansion of scholarship programme for students from the poorest countries; reduction of transfer costs for migrant remittances. Sweden's geographical humanitarian focus is the Sahel/Mali, the Horn of Africa/Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, DRC, CAR, Syria, Afghanistan, the Philippines and Yemen.

II. ACHIEVEMENTS AND BEST PRACTICES

A. Combating xenophobia and realizing integration possibilities

Integration of immigrants and refugees is considered an important Government policy area in Sweden. It should be acknowledged that, since the mid-1980s, the goal of equal citizen rights, and an emphasis on the extension of rights for everyone who resides regularly in the country have guided the reception of refugees. In addition to the egalitarian approach of equal rights, equal obligations and opportunities for all, which guide the Government's policy decisions in a mainstreamed approach to the issue, refugees receive various forms of individual targeted introductory support with a view to help overcome initial barriers and challenges in the integration process.

The government allocates large budgets for programmes aimed at improving the initial integration, in particular on the labour market but also within other areas such as of language tuition. There is a wealth of experience and knowledge from previous refugee reception and integration across the whole country and the commitment to refugee integration is also reflected in continuous assessments, impact evaluations and reforms to improve integration policies for which Sweden should be commended.

B. Improvement of the Quality of Refugee Status Determination Process

The Swedish Migration Board (hereafter the 'SMB') is responsible for the registration and assessment of asylum applications in Sweden. In its yearly appropriation directive, the Government provides instructions to the SMB on tasks to undertake and areas to focus on. The Government has in its directives in recent years instructed the SMB to improve the quality and legal certainty of its work through several measures. The SMB has, among other actions, undertaken a review of the training programmes available for staff and introduced

specialized units working with unaccompanied and separated children, and introduced specific safeguards for assessing claims relating to sexual orientation and gender identity.

In 2011, UNHCR presented a report of a quality improvement project carried out in collaboration with the SMB, which contained a number of recommendations. The SMB has since, through a comprehensive quality assurance project entitled 'Daily Learning Organization' introduced systematic measures to ensure quality and legal certainty in the asylum procedure. UNHCR has involved in the project as a member of the steering committee and the external reference group, and contributed to the development of training and quality assurance tools. The project is currently in its final stages and the quality assurance tools developed are in the process of being incorporated into the asylum procedure. The efforts of the Government and the SMB in working to ensure a quality refugee status determination process should be complimented.

I. KEY PROTECTION ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Issue 1: Prevention of Statelessness

The term "stateless" is not defined in Swedish legislation. The lack of a definition has the potential to lead to a series of consequences, which can affect both adults and children. For example, while statelessness is a distinct category used in both the Register of the Swedish Migration Board and the Swedish Population Register, under the Swedish Tax Authority, there are no particular regulations or guidelines on recording statelessness in the two registers to ensure that the recording is consistent and conducted using the same definition of statelessness.

Further, it should be noted that there is no specific status provided for stateless persons under Swedish law and no statelessness determination procedure in place. The question of statelessness usually arises in the context of asylum and other immigration procedures, naturalization, and registration of children born in Sweden. The fact that a person has been defined as stateless in one procedure and by one authority is not legally binding in other procedures or on other authorities, with the consequence that many of the rights granted to stateless persons in Sweden are not based on their statelessness, but on their immigration and registration status. The current Act on Swedish Citizenship (2001:82) provides for the grant of Swedish nationality to stateless children born in Sweden and who have been stateless since birth, through declaration. However, this only applies to children who hold a permanent residence permit in Sweden, or children of parents holding permanent residence. In March 2014, the Swedish Parliament adopted amendments to the Act on Swedish Citizenship, which will enter into force in April 2015. The new law extends the timeframe within which a declaration can be made. Currently, such a declaration needs to be made before the child turns 5 years, while according to the amendments, the declaration needs to be made before the child turns 18 years. However, the requirement of permanent residence permit has been maintained in the amendments. Hence, further revisions are needed in order to bring the Swedish nationality legislation fully in non-compliance with the provisions in

the *1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness* pertaining to the grant of nationality to children born in the territory who would otherwise be stateless.

Recommendations:

- Incorporate the definition of a stateless person, pursuant to Article 1 of *the 1954 Convention* in all relevant legislation;
- Establish a procedure for the determination of statelessness; and
- Ensure that the requirements in Article 1 of *the 1961 Convention* pertaining to the grant of nationality to children born in Sweden who would otherwise be stateless are fully incorporated into Swedish legislation.

Issue 2: The Effective Right to Family Reunification

The UNHCR study “*Refugee Integration in Sweden - It’s about time!*”¹ contains a number of findings based on consultations with stakeholders and refugees. One finding relates to the slow and uncertain process of family reunification, which impacts negatively on refugees’ capacity to benefit from existing integration support. For example, refugees consulted in the study explained how their mental well-being and ability to concentrate on language learning is undermined as a result of constant worrying about family members left behind in situations of flight in countries of origin or first asylum.

A group of Swedish NGOs have published a report highlighting a number of identified gaps in family reunification policy.² The report, for example, underlined the difficulties for separated children to initiate an application for family reunification at an Embassy abroad to reunite with their parent in Sweden, as children do not have legal capacity. Also, the strict requirements to document identity through the submission of a national passport and the requirements on documentation of family links were found to be obstacles to family reunification. The report recommended the Swedish government to commission a study to strengthen the adherence to international and regional standards related to family reunification based on the mapping of gaps in legislation as well at decision making level with regard to family reunification and to propose remedies to those gaps.

Recommendations:

- Review the criteria and procedural requirements pertaining to family reunification, in order to facilitate the ability of beneficiaries of international protection to reunify with family members in Sweden.

¹ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *A New Beginning: Refugee Integration in Sweden - It's about time!*, September 2013, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/5295a60e4.html>.

² The Swedish Red Cross, Save the Children Sweden, the Swedish Refugee Advice Centre and the Social Mission, *Familjeåterförening – en (o) möjlighet? Nulägesrapport* November 2013, available at <http://www.redcross.se/pressrum/rapporter-och-dokument/?itemid=31109>

Issue 3: Participation of Refugees in Informing Integration Measures

In the above mentioned UNHCR study “*Refugee Integration in Sweden – It’s about time!*” it was noted that despite the fact that Sweden has a strong tradition of and support for a participatory and age, gender and diversity approach, asylum-seekers and refugees in Sweden are not systematically consulted and involved in assessments and analyses of gaps and formulation and implementation of policies.

Recommendation:

- Reinforce participation of refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR in the identification of gaps and in the formulation and implementation of policies directly affecting them.

**Human Rights Liaison Unit
Division of International Protection
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Excerpts of Concluding Observations and Recommendations from UN Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures' Reports

- Universal Periodic Review:

SWEDEN

We would like to bring your attention to the following excerpts from UN Treaty Monitoring Bodies' Concluding Observations and Recommendations relating to issues of interest and persons of concern to UNHCR with regards to Sweden.

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

CERD/C/SWE/CO/19-21, 83rd Session

23 September 2013

Racial profiling

16. While noting that the State party's legal system requires a high level of proof in cases of the arrest and detention of a suspect, the Committee is concerned about the reported discrepancy between the number of arrests and the number of convictions under the Swedish Terrorism Act, which gives rise to concerns as regards unwarranted arrests due to racial profiling (arts. 2, para. 1 (a) and (c); 4 (c); and 6).

Recalling its general recommendation No. 31 (2005) on the prevention of racial discrimination in the administration and functioning of the criminal justice system, the Committee recommends that the State party take measures to evaluate the effects of the application of the Terrorism Act, including on minority communities, and ensure the application of relevant guarantees to prevent possible police profiling and any discrimination in the administration of justice.

Integration

15. The Committee welcomes the steps taken by the State party as part of its Comprehensive National Strategy for Integration 2008–2011 to increase newly arrived migrants' access to the labour market, facilitate effective language acquisition by and improve results in schools of persons of foreign origin and enhance their sense of identity within the Swedish society. However, it remains concerned that persons of foreign origin continue to suffer from de facto discrimination in employment, demonstrated by them occupying more low-income jobs and having lower employment rates. The Committee is also concerned by the limited access of immigrants to higher education and skills and their higher dropout rates from schools (arts. 2, para. 1 (c); and 5 (e) (i) and (v)).

The Committee recommends that the State party evaluate the results of the Comprehensive National Strategy for Integration with a view to addressing prevailing discrimination against persons of foreign origin throughout the country. The State party should in particular take further effective measures to increase access to education and employment by persons of foreign origin.

Hate Crimes and Hate Speech

11. The Committee takes note of the enhanced data on xenophobic and racially motivated hate crimes and welcomes the State party's efforts at the police, prosecution and justice levels to fight hate crimes by introducing, inter alia, the special hate crime investigators and on-call hate crime units. However, the Committee is concerned about the limited effectiveness of the measures against hate crimes, which are applied only in some parts of the country. It is also concerned at the reported discrepancy between increased reports to the police of hate crimes and the decrease in the number of preliminary investigations and convictions, in particular as regards "agitation" against a national or ethnic group. The Committee expresses further concern about the consideration of forms of hate speech under "agitation", which may result in a restrictive interpretation and the use of differing definitions of hate crime by individual law enforcement agencies, and the State party's information that it is not possible to track all reported hate crimes through the justice system (arts. 2, para. 1 (c) and (d); 4 (a); and 6).

The Committee recommends that the State party develop a clear strategy to ensure scrutiny of the way police and prosecutors deal with hate crimes and that it replicates measures such as hate crime units and special investigators in all parts of the country. The State party should extend to all parts of the country the training given to the police, prosecutors and judges to effectively investigate, prosecute and punish hate crimes, in order to close the gap between reported incidents and convictions. The Committee reiterates its request that the State party introduce a common and clear definition of hate crime so that it is possible to track all such reported crimes through the justice system. The State party should also follow up on the report of its special investigator on further measures to combat xenophobia and similar forms of intolerance.

Roma

20. While welcoming the steps taken by the State party to prevent discrimination against Roma, including the efforts of the Ombudsman and the adoption of the Strategy for Roma Inclusion 2012–2032, the Committee is concerned about the lack of progress in the equal enjoyment of rights by Roma, in particular about the continued stigmatization of and discrimination against Roma in access to services, their ongoing precarious socioeconomic situation due to low levels of employment, inadequate enforcement of the Education Act and the Anti-Discrimination Act regarding discrimination in education, and the prevailing lack of access of Roma to adequate housing (arts. 2, paras. 1 (c) and 2; 3; and 5 (e) (i),(iii) and (v)).

In the light of its general recommendation No. 27 (2000) on discrimination against Roma, the Committee recommends that the State party: (a) Enhance its efforts to combat discrimination against Roma, including by implementing temporary special measures in accordance with general recommendation No. 32 (2009) on the meaning and scope of special measures, to improve the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by Roma; (b) Combat prejudice and stereotypes and provide redress to individuals on the basis of the Anti-Discrimination Act; (c) Take further steps to alleviate the precarious socioeconomic situation of Roma, including by increasing their access to public and private employment through training, requalification and counselling; (d) Ensure the effective and systematic enforcement of the Education Act; (e) Increase access to adequate housing for Roma without discrimination and segregation, including by facilitating access to public and low-cost housing and

improving the living conditions of Roma.

Human Rights Committee

CCPR/C/SWE/CO/6, 95th Session

7 May 2009

Positive Aspects

3. The Committee welcomes the various legislative, administrative and practical measures taken to improve the promotion and protection of human rights in the State party since the examination of the fifth periodic report, in particular: (d) The entry into force of the new Aliens Act (2005:716) in 2006, which provides for the right to appeal to independent bodies, allows for increased use of oral hearings on appeal, and permits the granting of refugee status to women fleeing gender-based violence as well as persons fleeing from persecution on grounds of sexual orientation; (e) The adoption, in 2005, of new legislation on sexual crimes strengthening women's and children's protection from sexual abuse, as well as the Government's decision of 2008 to start evaluating the application of the new law.

Refugees, Asylum-Seekers and Internally Displaced Persons

17. The Committee notes that positive changes have occurred in the Migration Board's policies, decreasing the number of cases in which asylum-seekers are subjected to detention prior to the resolution of their status. The Committee remains concerned that some asylum-seekers have been detained for lengthy periods. The Committee also notes that asylum-seekers said to be a risk to themselves or a threat to others have been placed in remand prisons that also house criminal suspects and convicted criminals. The Committee is further concerned that asylum-seekers have been deported before the final resolution of their claims to refugee status. In addition, the Committee notes that confidential information is sometimes used in expulsion decisions to which the applicant has no access (arts. 13 and 14).

The State party should permit detention of asylum-seekers only in exceptional circumstances, and limit the length of such detentions, also avoiding any placement in remand prisons. The State party should consider placement alternatives for asylum-seekers, and should assure that asylum-seekers not be deported before the resolution of their claims. In addition, the State party should ensure that asylum-seekers have the right to access adequate information in order to answer arguments and evidence utilized in their case.

12. The Committee notes that a common action plan has been developed by the State party's Border Control Police, the Migration Board and the Social Services, seeking to safeguard unaccompanied asylum-seeking children against the danger of human trafficking. The Committee is concerned, however, at the lack of detailed information on the effectiveness of the measures taken by the special units of the Migration Board to prevent the disappearance of children travelling without guardians (art. 24).

The State party should ensure that effective measures are taken to prevent the disappearance of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Hate Speech

19. The Committee is concerned that, according to information from the Living History

Forum, following a Survey¹ conducted in 2004 and examining anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia and general intolerance among school youths in relation to attitudes, victimization, self-reported crime and the dissemination of extremist propaganda, “intolerance towards minority groups – which may manifest itself in such forms as discrimination, harassment, insults, threats and physical violence – constitutes a serious social problem” in the State party. Furthermore, and while appreciating the State party’s efforts to combat hate crimes, including the establishment of the hate crime hotline in 2007, the Committee reiterates its concern about the increase of reported racially motivated crimes in recent years as well as the low number of prosecutions compared with the number of reported hate speech incidents (arts. 20 and 26).

The State party should intensify its efforts to prevent, combat, and prosecute hate speech violating article 20 of the Covenant, and to ensure that relevant criminal law provisions and policy directives are effectively implemented. The State party should significantly increase its efforts to tackle the problem among youth, in particular within the framework of the Living History Forum. The State Party should also evaluate the effectiveness of the hate crime hotline.

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/7, 40th Session

8 April 2008

Positive Aspects

9. The Committee commends the State party for the adoption, in November 2007, of the action plan to combat men’s violence against women, violence and oppression in the name of honour and violence in same-sex relationships.

10. The Committee welcomes the amendment of the Swedish Aliens Act in 2006, which provides for the granting of refugee status to persons claiming fear of persecution on grounds of gender and sexual orientation and which will be of benefit to women refugees.

Refugees, Asylum-Seekers and Internally Displaced Persons

38. While noting the measures taken with the aim of enhancing integration of immigrant, refugee and minority women into the Swedish society and of including the women in the labour market, the Committee continues to be concerned about their human rights situation and the fact that they continue to suffer from multiple forms of discrimination. The Committee notes that the 2007 action plan on violence recognizes women of immigrant or foreign origin as a particularly vulnerable group requiring special protection, but remains concerned at the violence and discrimination on the grounds of sex that they face in their own communities. The Committee is also concerned about a 2007 regulation demanding that a foreign national be accompanied by a close relative when obtaining identification documents, which may negatively affect abused foreign women, but notes the statement by the delegation that this regulation will be reviewed. While noting the appointment of a Delegation for Roma Issues, the Committee continues to be concerned at the remaining forms of discrimination experienced by Saami and Roma women in various contexts.

The Committee urges the State party to intensify its efforts to eliminate discrimination against immigrant, refugee and minority women. It encourages the

State party to be proactive in its measures to prevent discrimination against those women, both within their communities and in society at large, to combat violence against them, and to increase their awareness of the availability of social services and legal remedies as well as to familiarize them with their rights to gender equality and non-discrimination. The Committee also urges the State party to take effective measures to integrate them into the Swedish labour market. The Committee further urges the State party to review the 2007 regulation on identification documents. In addition, the Committee calls upon the State party to conduct regular and comprehensive studies on discrimination against immigrant, refugee and minority women, to collect statistics on their situation in employment, education and health and on all forms of violence that they may experience, and to submit such information in its next periodic report.

Trafficking

30. While noting a number of measures undertaken by the State party to address the issue of trafficking, including the ratification on 1 July 2004 of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the 2002 amendment of the Penal Code to introduce a provision criminalizing trafficking in human beings and the possibility of issuing time-limited residence permits to victims or witnesses of trafficking, the Committee notes with concern the incidence of trafficking of women and girls into Sweden and is concerned that insufficient data on the prevalence of trafficked women and girls were provided to the Committee. The Committee is also concerned at the occurrence of trafficking in girls, prostitution and related issues committed by Swedish citizens abroad.

The Committee urges the State party to take all appropriate measures to suppress all forms of trafficking in women. The Committee requests the State party to provide in its next report comprehensive information and data about trafficking in women and girls and information on the impact of measures taken and results achieved, including under the future national action programme for combating trafficking in human beings. It encourages the State party to take proper account of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, following her visit to Sweden (A/HRC/4/34/Add.3), when formulating the national programme. The Committee calls upon the State party to strengthen the legislation allowing the prosecution of Swedish citizens involved in sexual exploitation of girls abroad, including by prohibiting the reissuance of passports for persons freed after posting bail. The Committee recommends that the State party continue its bilateral, regional and international cooperation so as to further curb this phenomenon, including in the context of the State party's strategy on poverty and trafficking in human beings.

Violence against Women

28. While commending the State party for the range of efforts made to eliminate violence against women since the submission of its previous periodic report, including the 2007 action plan on violence, new legislation on sexual crimes from 2005 and the extension of the provisions of the Act on Restraining Orders, the Committee remains concerned at the high prevalence of violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence and crimes committed against women in the name of honour. The

Committee is also concerned at the low prosecution and conviction rates relating to violent crimes in the State party and regrets that the Swedish crime statistics are not broken down by the sex of the victims. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned at the conclusions of the inquiry on social services support that the provision of such services vary between municipalities and that some municipalities are unable to offer sheltered housing to all women victims of violence, including women with special needs, such as women with disabilities. In addition, the Committee regrets the lack of statistical information on the number of women and girls living in Sweden who have been genitally mutilated.

In accordance with its general recommendation No. 19, the Committee urges the State party to ensure that comprehensive measures are in place to address all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence and crimes committed in the name of honour. The Committee calls upon the State party to allocate sufficient financial resources to ensure the effective implementation of the 2007 action plan on violence, to study and analyze all cases of violence against women, particularly those that result in murders of women, and to implement policies in order to prevent such violence, provide protection, support and services to the victims and punish and rehabilitate offenders. The Committee also calls upon the State party to collect comprehensive statistical data disaggregated by sex, age and type of violence and the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim. The Committee urges the State party to provide statistical information in its next periodic report on the number of women and girls living in Sweden who have been genitally mutilated. The Committee also urges the State party to take the necessary measures to ensure greater cooperation between the central Government, the regional county administrative boards and the municipalities. The Committee further urges the State party to monitor the provision of social services with a view to ensuring the availability of a sufficient number of shelters equipped to accommodate women with disabilities throughout the territory of the State party and making sure that they are adequately financed.

Committee on the Rights of the Child

CRC/C/OPSC/SWE/CO/, 48th Session

23 January 2012

Refugees, Asylum-Seekers, and Internally Displaced Persons

22. The Committee is concerned that the measures to prevent offences under the Protocol are inadequate, including with regard to: (d) the lack of protection for vulnerable unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors and children of irregular immigrants or undocumented children.

The Committee recommends that the State party: (d) Ensure the provision of adequate protections measures for children in an unaccompanied asylum-seeking or migration situation, including by increasing control of the person(s) into whose care the child is put.

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

E/C.12/SWE/CO/5, 41st Session

1 December 2008

Positive Aspects

9. The Committee welcomes the steps taken to combat violence against women, in particular the adoption of an 'action plan to combat men's violence against women, violence and oppression in the name of honour and violence in same-sex relationships.'

Refugees, Asylum-Seekers and Internally Displaced Persons

27. The Committee recommends the State party to take immediate steps to ensure the implementation of the laws which provide for access to education for 'hidden children' (children of families of refugees or asylum-seekers whose request to stay in the State party has been rejected).

33. The Committee requests the State party to provide detailed information, including statistical data, in its next periodic report, on the assistance programmes for the voluntary return of refugees and asylum-seekers.

Trafficking

32. The Committee encourages the State party to consider ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

Violence against Women

21. The Committee notes that despite the steps taken by the State party to combat violence against women, including domestic violence, the majority of the reported cases are not prosecuted. The Committee notes with concern that although domestic violence against the spouse or partner can be prosecuted as a 'gross violation of integrity', the Penal Code does not contain a specific offence of domestic violence. (art. 10)

The Committee recommends that the State party enact specific legislation criminalizing acts of domestic violence. The Committee further recommends that the State party increase its efforts to prosecute diligently acts of domestic violence when a complaint is brought and to include information, in its next periodic report, on the number and the nature of reported cases of domestic violence, on the convictions and the types of sanctions imposed on perpetrators where sentenced, as well as on any assistance and rehabilitation measures provided to victims.